



Washington State Department of Agriculture *News Release*

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WSDA completes pesticide violation cases for spray drift, record-keeping incidents

OLYMPIA – During the second quarter of 2005, the state Department of Agriculture (WSDA) issued a \$500 fine and suspended the license of a private pesticide applicator from Selah for six days. Mario Martinez failed to submit pesticide application records that were requested by a WSDA investigator who was responding to a spray drift complaint.

Also during the quarter, WSDA reached a settlement agreement with Harold West, West Flying Service, Inc., Echo, Oregon, over a case investigated by WSDA in 1999. WSDA alleged that West's aerial application of a herbicide to a grass seed crop drifted onto a nearby vineyard causing extensive damage. The case was settled when West agreed to an eight-day suspension of his commercial applicator license and to pay \$500. WSDA had agreed to delay final action to resolve the case until a civil lawsuit on the matter was completed.

WSDA enforces state and federal laws to protect people, property and the environment against the improper use of pesticides. Staff also provides technical assistance to the pesticide industry and consumers, and enforces the rules on structural inspections for wood destroying organisms, such as wood boring beetles, wood rot, or carpenter ants. About 200 allegations of improper distribution or misuse of pesticides, or faulty structural inspections are investigated each year.

To file a complaint involving the misuse of a pesticide, or to find out if a pesticide applicator or structural pest inspector is licensed, call (877) 301-4555.

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